

25X1A6d

19 January 1955

MEMORANDUM

TO : Office of General Counsel
THROUGH : Deputy Assistant Director / Security Office
FROM : [REDACTED]
SUBJECT : Automobile Accident / 23 April 1954

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1. The attached file represents accident report and all supporting papers covering an accident which occurred on 23 April 1954 on U. S. Route 50 in Fairfax County, between a Government vehicle operated by [REDACTED] the claimant.

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2. The case was previously forwarded to you through the office of the Deputy Assistant Director / Security Office, requesting an opinion as to liability. Your reply dated 28 December 1954 was of the opinion that the United States was not liable. On 4 January 1955 I dispatched a letter to the Government Employees Insurance Company denying liability. Attached is a copy of a letter dated 11 January 1955 from the Government Employees Insurance Company, addressed to the [REDACTED]

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The [REDACTED] letter appeals the decision set forth in my letter of 4 January on the basis that the Insurance Company's claimant was traveling at a rate of speed under that authorized by the State of Virginia. Further inspection finds this to be the case and, therefore, claim cannot be denied on this count. The second premise set forth by the Government Employees Insurance Company does not appear valid, for if the claimant had his car under control his vehicle could have been stopped, thereby preventing the accident. From the diagrams submitted it also appears that he tried to pass the Government Vehicle on the right hand side. This is not accepted practice on a two-lane highway and I do not believe that it is considered standard practice on a four-lane highway.

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3. The above facts may or may not establish Government liability in themselves. That your office can determine. However, since a communication has been directed to the [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] by refusal to pay the claim.

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JOB NO. [REDACTED] BOX NO. [REDACTED] FID NO. [REDACTED] DOC NO. 23 NO CHANGE
IN CLASS/ DECLASS CLASS CHANGED TO: IS S O RET. JUST. 22
NEXT REV DATE 10 REV LATER [REDACTED] REVIEWED BY [REDACTED]
NO. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
REV CLASS [REDACTED] REV COORD. [REDACTED] AUTH: HR 70-3

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The claim as you have noted is in the amount of \$100.51. Both your office and the Director of Security may feel it wise to authorize me to pay the claim [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

4. The entire file is again attached and it is requested that you return it to me with your decision.

[REDACTED] 25X1A9a

CC: DD/A